

A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS AN ABANDONMENT OF CONGRESS' DUTY

(Ms. SINEMA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, a government shutdown is an abandonment of Congress' duty, and it's irresponsible. We must focus solely on creating a commonsense solution that ends this shutdown.

I believe Members of Congress need to talk to and listen to one another, even when we don't agree. I listen to my Republican colleagues and, while I don't agree with them all the time, I'm open to hearing their ideas because this country deserves a Congress that finds commonsense solutions.

I voted, over the past week, to keep the process moving forward, but the process and Washington are clearly broken. Nine months of cynical posturing has led to this shutdown, which is hurting hardworking Arizonans in my district.

Mr. Speaker, there is no more time for games or gimmicks. We have to find a reasonable, bipartisan solution. We cannot end this shutdown without House Democrats and Republicans voting together.

Let's get to work now.

HISTORY IS MUCH DIFFERENT

(Mr. LABRADOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LABRADOR. Mr. Speaker, over the last few days we keep hearing about how Republicans are terrorists, Republicans have guns to everybody's head. And it's been, actually, really sad to hear the other side talk about these things.

At this point in Ronald Reagan's second term, for example, the government had already shut down the government six times, according to The Washington Post and according to many other articles. And this happened under the leadership of Democratic leader Tip O'Neill, precisely the opposite of the political dynamic that exists today.

Former O'Neill staffer and MSNBC pundit Chris Matthews has written an entire book extolling the era as a time when politics actually worked. You can probably guess how he feels today about this.

But the problem is that, during Tip O'Neill's career, there were seven different shutdowns with the Democrats. The final shutdown of O'Neill's career, according to Andrew Stiles of the National Review, happened in October of 1986. House Democrats had picked a fight with Reagan on a number of issues, including labor, energy, and welfare policy.

Today, Democrats insist that this has never happened in history, and the reality is that the history is much different.

SHAMEFUL IDEOLOGICAL TANTRUMS

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it has been 2 days since an extreme few in Congress put politics ahead of country and allowed a government shutdown. It's shameful that some will allow ideological tantrums to take the place of civility and a real legislative agenda.

This partisan paralysis has put us on pace to be the least productive Congress in history. We voted nearly 50 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, even though it's been upheld by the highest court and reaffirmed by the reelection of our President.

Yes, I said the reelection of our President. Some of my colleagues still seem to be having a hard time with the fact that he won. It's time to get over it and move on because the most important issue for Americans is the economy. And this Congress hasn't even come close to passing a jobs bill.

The individuals holding America hostage with their political games claim they're doing so because they want their voices to be heard.

Well, my constituents also want to be heard. Their message is loud and clear: End this irresponsible shutdown and get back to the business of rebuilding our economy, restoring the American Dream, and rehabilitating our reputation with the American people.

Let's act now and end this shutdown today.

WE NEED A REASONABLE PROPOSAL

(Mr. LANKFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, I hear from folks all the time—we need to have a reasonable proposal to be able to end this. Well, how about this for a reasonable proposal.

There are lot of people that are concerned about the penalties and the effects that are coming down on them in the next year. People have reasonable questions about how this is going to happen.

Am I going to sign up right?

Am I going to have a problem?

So let's do this. Let's take, for the first year, just take the penalties away from individuals; that if you make a mistake on filing of your ObamaCare, or if you have real problems with it, for the first year you won't have to pay those penalties. Just for the first year.

And then also, here's something else reasonable: How about Members of Congress and the White House have to live under the same rules that every American does dealing with ObamaCare?

Is that a reasonable proposal?

Well, that happens to be the proposal that we have on the table right now—

that if someone makes a mistake on their filing of ObamaCare, or they don't want to do it this first year, they won't face penalties the first year.

Every Member of Congress and all of the White House will have to be in the exchanges, just like every other American that's out there that's required to be in that. We think that's a reasonable proposal.

For my colleagues that support ObamaCare, I am amazed they're fighting like crazy to not be in it.

At this point, we should meet face-to-face. I was pleased to see the President say he wants to meet, was disappointed to see he wants to meet to say he won't negotiate.

Let's meet face-to-face and solve this.

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NO NEW PATIENTS, NO NEW CLINICAL TRIALS

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, instead of waging a war on cancer, the Republican Tea Party is waging a war on cancer patients.

The Tea Party shutdown will deny 200 patients a week—30 of them kids—treatment at the largest research hospital in the world, the National Institutes of Health. These are often last-chance cancer treatments that offer the only hope for kids who are stuck with cancer.

And why did the Tea Party shut down the government? Because they oppose the Affordable Care Act. This is a law that says that never again can insurance companies deny coverage for a family with a kid who is stuck with cancer. Under the Affordable Care Act, no family will go bankrupt because of cancer. And this is the bill the Tea Party is so furious about.

What's more, the Tea Party budgets have decimated cancer research. NIH used to fund 33 percent of applications for promising research; today, it's 16 percent. The shutdown is stopping cancer research at Roswell Park and across the country.

I hear we may take another fake vote tonight to restore funding to the National Institutes of Health. This is disgusting. This bill will continue the sequester assault on cancer research.

I would remind my colleagues that for families and kids fighting cancer, the only failure in cancer research is when you are forced to quit because of a Tea Party Federal Government shutdown.

TIME FOR SENATE TO EMBRACE #FAIRNESSFORALL, TIME TO RE-OPEN GOVERNMENT

(Mr. ROTHFUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, 10 months ago, I came to Washington, D.C., as the new employee of 705,000 people in western Pennsylvania.

Before I came to Washington, I heard about inside deals that happened in this town. I saw some of these deals when President Obama cut special breaks for Big Business and Senators and Representatives. What the President left out was a break for the American people.

It's just not fair. It's an outrage.

Western Pennsylvanians are right frustrated with Washington, D.C. It seems that HARRY REID and the Senate are intent on keeping the government shut down so they can protect the special breaks they cut for themselves and for their friends and allies.

Mr. Speaker, I'm here to deliver a message from my constituents to the Senate: no special deals. If Big Business and President Obama's friends get a break from the health care law, then so should individuals and families in western Pennsylvania and around the Nation.

It's time for the Senate to embrace fairness for all. It's time to reopen the government.

OPENING DAY FOR THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IN CONNECTICUT

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was opening day for the Affordable Care Act in the State of Connecticut. Despite the hysterical predictions on the other side, where you would have thought the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse would be riding through the streets of New London, Norwich, and Hartford, instead, the headlines this morning were:

Enrollment better than expected on exchange's first day.

Forty-five thousand people contacted the Connecticut exchange. Hundreds enrolled. They didn't wait until January to begin the process of getting health coverage.

One of them was a lady named Elly Banos, 48 years old, who said she's been without coverage for a year and half due to a layoff. She's been holding her breath and "thanking God every day that I don't get sick or get into a car accident." She was excited to learn that she could get good individual coverage for a month or qualify for the expanded Medicaid coverage.

Another, Babz Ivy, said that she has gone to bed "with a prayer on my lips, asking God to keep me healthy and in no need of medical attention."

"Today was amazing," Ivy said. "I felt so empowered and in control of my health."

The fact of the matter is these are the targets of the shutdown effort. It's not President Obama or Democrats in Congress. It's people like Elly Banos

and Babz Ivy that we need to protect by keeping this government open and allowing people to get access to health care for the first time in American history.

TIME TO TALK

(Mr. MESSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, President Obama is willing to negotiate with Syria's dictator. The President made a phone call last week to open negotiations with Iran's new leader. But yesterday, the President held a press conference in the Rose Garden to talk about why he's not willing to talk to House Republicans about ending this shutdown.

The President should follow President Kennedy's example. President Kennedy famously said:

We should never negotiate out of fear, but we should never fear to negotiate.

If we talk, we can surely find a solution that reopens the Federal Government and protects the American people from ObamaCare; but we need the President and our Democratic colleagues at the negotiating table.

PASS A CLEAN FUNDING BILL

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is shut down today for one reason: we in the House have been denied any chance of voting on the clean funding bill passed by the Senate.

Four times now, House leaders have demanded that we dismantle a democratically enacted and Supreme Court-upheld law as their ransom, but not once have they allowed us to vote on the Senate's bill.

This recklessness has real consequences. At military installations in my home State of Massachusetts, thousands of civilian employees who support our Nation's servicemembers have already weathered furloughs. Now they and their families are being punished yet again.

The path forward is clear: vote on the Senate-passed CR and send it to the President today, put the government back to work, negotiate on a long-term budget, and work together to fine-tune the Affordable Care Act. With yesterday's opening of the exchanges, we saw the tremendous need and response.

I urge the Speaker to do the responsible thing: bring us a vote on a clean funding bill.

DEMAND FAIRNESS

(Mrs. WAGNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, moments ago, I joined veterans from all

over Missouri's Show Me State at the sacred grounds of our Nation's World War II Memorial. This memorial is a monument to the spirit and sacrifice of our veterans, and yet HARRY REID and the President decided to slam the door on the American people and block the House from providing benefits to our Nation's heroes and keeping our national treasures open.

Time and time again, the House has voted to keep the government open and provide fairness for all Americans—fairness from an administration that believes they can pick and choose which laws to enforce, while subjecting the American people to the heavy burdens of ObamaCare; fairness from a President who thinks ObamaCare doesn't apply to Members of Congress or the White House.

As a result of partisan bickering and gridlock, I have waived my salary for the duration of the government shutdown because Congress didn't get the job done. Those who make the laws should live by the laws, and I will continue to fight for the people of Missouri's Second District.

FAIRNESS IS NOT SHUTTING DOWN THE GOVERNMENT

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, so often we hear our colleagues saying, We come here to Congress to protect and to represent the American people. Well, the American people have spoken. They have asked us to open the doors of government, not shut them.

Mr. Speaker, I say to you that we cannot let you have a few of your Republican Members hold the government hostage because they dislike this President or they dislike the Affordable Care Act.

We cannot piecemeal this funding cycle, because fairness is not letting children starve. Eleven States will not be able to have grants for Head Start. The NIH has announced that they are not going to be able to have clinical trials for hundreds of patients. Thirty of those cancer patients are children.

Fairness is not starving small businesses. Fairness is not piecemealing it. It's like having a large family and asking the parents to pick three children to feed and let the others starve before their eyes.

We are starving America, we are starving government. And I say to my Republican colleagues, fairness is not shutting down the government.

ANTI-GOP VANDALISM

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, the 25th District of Texas is home to the Texas State Capitol, the University of Texas, the Comanche Peak nuclear